

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A PROTECTED
OPTICAL ACCESS RING NETWORK**

Abstract of the Disclosure

An optical access network employs a ring topology in which connections between
5 the network units and between the network units and the optical line terminal are via a
protection switch. The protection switch monitors connections from the optical network
units to detect a loss of signal and, on detecting a loss of signal from an optical network
unit, switches the respective optical network unit out of the ring, thus maintaining
continuity of the ring topology.